

Appl. No. : 10/661,853
Filed : September 12, 2003

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed August 3, 2005.

Applicant has canceled claims 1-5, 11-12 and 18-25 and has presented new Claims 26-34 herein.

Applicant acknowledges the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection of Claims 1-5, 11, 12 and 18-25 in view of Claims 1-9 of Applicant's co-pending Application Serial No. 10/941,386. Applicant will address this rejection, if necessary, once otherwise allowable subject-matter is indicated in this application and the outcome of the claims of the co-pending application is known.

The Examiner rejected previously pending Claims 1, 3, 4, 20-22 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by McLeod (USPN 6,560,093). The Examiner further rejected previously pending Claims 5, 11-12, 18-20 and 23-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLeod in view of Weiss (USPN 6,6213,006) (USN 6,201,532), McKay (USN 5,813,914) or Qiu (US Publication 2002/0079790).

Applicant asserts that new Claims 26-34 are allowable over the prior art, including McLeod and the other references cited by the Examiner.

Independent Claim 26

Independent Claim 26 is directed to a gaming machine having a cabinet with a console area having a front face with an opening. A display is movably mounted relative to the opening. A movable bezel controls movement of the display. In this configuration, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 of the application, the bezel acts as a security lock and cover for the display. When the bezel

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is opened, the display can then separately be moved, thus providing access to the interior of the cabinet through the opening in the console.

This configuration is substantially different than that detailed by McLeod where a monitor 20 solely comprises a front or face of a computer terminal. In this configuration, movement of the monitor 20 alone provides access to the interior of the cabinet. Another difference, and disadvantage, of the configuration of McLeod as compared to the invention as claimed is that the monitor 20 does not comprise a separate element and can not readily be removed for testing or replacement. In the invention as claimed, because the bezel in its closed position covers the display, the display is protected and secured, while when the bezel is open, the display can be configured to be easily and separately removable.

Relative to Weiss, Applicant notes that Weiss discloses an arrangement where a display is movably mounted behind a door. This configuration differs from that as claimed. Applicant claims a gaming machine with a console area having a front face with an opening (at which is positioned a moveable display), not a housing with an entirely open front with a door. Structurally the two configurations are entirely different. Relative to a gaming machine such as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 of the application, a configuration such as Weiss would be inoperable, since it would not be practical to form the entire front of the console as a door which could be opened (such would create interference issues with the buttons 48 and accessibility to player accessible features such as the bill validator 42).

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Independent Claim 30

Independent Claim 30 is believed to be allowable over the prior art for similar reasons to Claim 26, but also because Claim 30 recites a unique display mounting arrangement. This mounting arrangement is illustrated in Figures 3 and 4 of the application. As illustrated, this mounting arrangement permits the display to easily be rotated between the positions illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 of the application, but also permits the display to easily be disengaged from the gaming machine.

Relative to the Examiner's citation of Weiss as disclosing a movable display, Weiss does not disclose the mounting arrangement which is claimed or suggest such. For example, Weiss' fixed mounting does not permit the display to easily be lifted out of engagement with the gaming machine cabinet.

Dependent Claims 27-29 and 31-33

Applicant assert that these claims are allowable for the reason they depend from an allowable independent claim, and also because they define independently patentable subject-matter.

For example, Claims 27 and 31-32 recite the gaming machine including a movable controller/platform, such as a gaming machine where the front face slopes back relative to a vertical rear surface, and a controller platform mounted to the rear surface can be tilted forward into alignment with an opening in the front face, providing convenient access. Applicant asserts that this feature is non-obvious over the prior art. In McLeod, because the monitor comprises the entire front of the cabinet, complete access is provided to the CPU (18a) when the front is opened. There is

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therefore no suggestion to modify McLeod so that the CPU tilts, such as using a pivotable bracket as disclosed by Qiu. Further, Qiu does not suggest use of the pivotable bracket to move a component from one position to another in which the component is aligned for removal through a remotely located opening. Instead, Qiu discloses a pivotable bracket which itself is used to provide access to an enclosure (i.e. just like a door). To the contrary, the controller platform of the invention pivots relative to a pivotable display/bezel, thus permitting the size of the cabinet to be minimized while at the same time still permitting the controller to be conveniently accessed.

Claims 29 and 34 recite a gaming machine where the bezel rotates down (providing access to the display and, when the display is rotated down, access to the interior of the machine), player input buttons are aligned with the opening. As detailed at paragraph [0090] of the application, this has the significant advantage that a technician can access the buttons while at the same time accessing the interior of the gaming machine (such as the controller therein).

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Summary

Applicant asserts that Claims 26-34 are in a condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice as to the same. If any matters remain outstanding, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Dated: October 28, 2005 By: _____

Respectfully submitted,

R. Scott Weide

Registration No. 37,755

Weide & Miller, Ltd.

Bank West Building, 5th Floor

7251 West Lake Mead Blvd., Suite 530

Las Vegas, NV 89128

(702) 382-4804 (Pacific time)